CHCs and 24 hour PHCs under National AIDS Control Programme, Phase-III which is to start from year 2006-07.

(c) A total of 32.95 lac during 2003 to Sept. 2005 HIV positive pregnant women have been counseled and 19.80 lac (60.29% of counseled) have been tested for HIV status. Among the tested, 22,926 (1.15%) pregnant women were found to be HIV positive. 9739 (42.48%) HIV positive mother and baby have been given a Nevirapine prophylaxis. It is estimated that HIV prevalence among the babies may have been reduced from 30% to a level of 13%.

Long wait for heart surgery

†3457. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heart patients have to wait for ten to twelve months for their surgery in Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government are taking to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such waiting time for heart surgery in Central Government Hospitals including AIIMS, New Delhi.

However, pre surgical requirement like various investigations, fitness of the patients to undergo surgery and arrangements of finance/blood by the relatives of the patients may take some time.

(c) Improvement in Medical Services in various Central Government Hospital is a continuous and on going process.

Mushrooming of pathology labs

†3458. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pathology laboratories have mushroomed in India during the last five years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.